

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 08063 011611Z

45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 IO-14 PM-07

NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

ACDA-19 PRS-01 L-03 DPW-01 DRC-01 /105 W

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O 020330Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1342

SECDEF IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

INFO CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SEOUL 8063

JOINT EMBASSY/UNC MESSAGE

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PBOB, MARR, KS, KN

SUBJ: 346TH MAC MEETING: NORTH KOREAN TERRITORIAL WATERS

CLAIMNO

REF: UNC 011145Z DEC 73

1. AT THE 346TH MAC MEETING KPA SENIOR MEMBER STATED THAT IF OUR SIDE "WANTS TO SAIL TO WATERS" OF THE FIVE UNC-CONTROLLED ISLANDS IN YELLOW SEA WE SHOULD SUBMIT REQUEST TO NORTH KOREAN SIDE AND GET APPROVAL IN ADVANCE. TEXT OF NK STATEMENT ON THIS CONTAINED IN REPORT OF MAC MEETING (REFTEL). NK STATEMENT WAS MADE IN CONCLUDING REMARKS AND THERE WAS NO EXPLICIT ACTION THREATENED. HOWEVER, STATEMENT APPEARED DELIBERATE AND WARNED THAT NK SIDE "WILL TAKE PROPER STEPS" IF UNC DOES NOT RESPOND TO ITS DEMANDS. NK ALSO WARNED AGAINST MISJUDGMENT OF ITS "PATIENCE" AS "WEAKNESS." UNC SENIOR MEMBER REJECTED NK DEMAND.

2. NK STATEMENT CAREFULLY DID NOT CLAIM SOVEREIGNTY OVER FIVE ISLANDS BUT WAS PART OF THEIR GENERAL

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 08063 011611Z

APPROACH AT MEETING TO STAKE OUT CLAIM TO TERRITORIAL

WATERS IN SEA OFF HAEJU, TEUNGSANGOT, AND ONGJIN
PENINSULA TO A RADIUS OF 12 NAUTICAL MILES.

3. INITIAL ROK REACTION HAS PREDICTABLY BEEN ONE OF DEEP
CONCERN, AND STRONG DESIRE FOR AN INCREASED STATE OF
READINESS OF THE ARMED FORCES. HOWEVER, SENIOR UNC
OFFICERS HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH MND AND JCS
AND THEIR ORIGINAL REACTION APPEARS TO BE MODERATING FOR THE
MOMENT. THE COURSE OF ACTION DISCUSSED BELOW HAS ROK
SUPPORT.

4. INTENT OF UNC NAVAL COMMANDER IS TO CONTINUE
RESUPPLY OF ISLANDS ON A BUSINESS AS USUAL BASIS.
THIS CONSISTS OF A GROUP OF ONE FERRY AND TWO OTHER
SMALL COMMERCIAL CARGO SHIPS ONCE PER WEEK. THESE
SHIPS USUALLY ARRIVE ONE AFTERNOON FROM INCHON AND
DEPART THE FOLLOWING MORNING FROM PAENG YONG DO,
THE MOST REMOTE AND LARGEST ISLAND. THE GROUP IS
NORMALLY ESCORTED BY AN ROK PATROL CRAFT FOR MOST OF
THE JOURNEY. NAVY AMPHIBIOUS CRAFT MAKE PERIODIC
LOGISTIC TRIPS FOR MILITARY RESUPPLY OF BOTH PAENGYONG-DO
AND YONPYONG-DO. THIS AVERAGES ABOUT ONE LST OR LSM PER
WEEK. LAST FERRY TRIP TO PAENGYONG-DO ARRIVED THERE NOV 29
AND DEPARTED THIS A.M. DEC 1.

5. THESE OPERATIONS WILL BE MOST CLOSELY MONITORED
IN VIEW OF NORTH KOREAN DEMAND AT MAC MEETING.
WE WILL RESIST ANY ROK DEMANDS TO MOUNT A MAJOR
SHOW OF FORCE.
UNDERHILL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL WATERS, FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION, MAC, MEETINGS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SEOUL08063
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SEOUL JOINT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731250/aaaabkyj.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: UNC 011145Z DEC 73
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Feb-2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <07 MAR 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 346TH MAC MEETING: NORTH KOREAN TERRITORIAL WATERS CLAIMNO
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, KS, KN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005